



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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United States
Department of
Agriculture



WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: April 17, 2011

Number: 6

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 17, 2011

Moderate spring weather through the week allowed producers to make progress on corn and cotton planting, although severe weather on Saturday caused localized damage and put a halt to field activities. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.8. In addition to planting activities, producers worked on applying burndown and pre-emergence herbicides and fertilizer this week. Tobacco fields are being readied for planting and producers are gearing up for peanut and cotton planting. The severe thunderstorm that moved through the state on Saturday caused flash floods, with some damage to farm land, fences, washed-out roads and downed trees, while other areas experienced high winds, hail and excessive downpours of rain. On the plus side, recent rainfall and consistent temperatures have assisted pastures and hay fields to put on growth and livestock is now getting a substantial portion of nutrition from grazing.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	2	4	86	8
April 10, 2011	0	6	83	11
April 17, 2011	1	2	73	24

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	8	22	68	2
April 10, 2011	4	18	75	3
April 17, 2011	3	10	80	7

IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	6	28	58	7
Livestock	2	6	29	53	10
Hay, Other	0	4	37	52	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	34	49	16
Winter Wheat	0	1	21	56	22
Barley	0	4	26	59	11
Oats	0	1	31	67	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	27	51	22
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	47	43	10
Summer Potatoes	0	0	0	100	0
Apples, All	0	0	49	51	0
Peaches	1	1	62	31	5
Grapes	0	0	45	55	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	22	9	32	29
Summer Potatoes Planted	99	92	82	94
Winter Wheat Headed	1	N/A	2	2
Peanuts Planted	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oats for grain Seeded	15	N/A	13	N/A
Cotton Planted	8	0	3	3

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 17, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 16	Mar. 1 to Apr. 16 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	45	82	36	59	5	287	256	1.02	5.38	-0.22	8.79	-3.41
Norfolk	71	53	85	48	62	6	295	280	0.61	3.93	-2.02	9.81	-3.44
Richmond	73	50	84	42	62	6	326	307	1.37	5.91	0.12	10.47	-1.84
Roanoke	73	48	85	43	60	5	290	NA	2.16	8.22	2.52	11.24	-0.71
Wash/Dulles	68	47	85	38	58	6	223	NA	2.23	8.06	2.83	12.14	1.11

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

1/ Total Growing Degree Days available thru Apr. 10, 2010.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Pastures are in good shape. We have some areas showing stress from last year's drought.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Continued wet weather is slowing progress on field work. Small grain rye is heading out and the week's end saw many producers mowing in advance of the weekend storm system. Severe weather on Saturday caused localized flash flooding resulting in damage to stream fencing and lodging on much of the rye still standing. This week's forecast of continued wet weather does not bode well for small grain silage harvest or corn planting in the coming week. On the bright side, pastures have greened up nicely with livestock now getting a substantial portion of nutrition from grazing.

WESTERN

BATH (Rodney Leech)

Bath County declared an emergency for flash flooding in several sections of the County. Heavy rain storms caused flash floods with damage to some farm land, fences, farm roads and downed trees in localized areas.

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Heavy rain storms caused flash floods with damage to some farm land, fences, farm roads and downed trees in localized areas.

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Weekly precipitation was 2.16 inches. Severe storms on Saturday producing flash floods in residential and urban areas.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Heavy rains Tuesday and again Saturday brought 3 inches of rain to much of Rockbridge this week. Some flooding occurred with washed-out farm roads and fence damage was observed in some areas.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Showers and overcast during the day on Saturday April 16, followed by evening thunderstorms with hail in some areas. Nothing severe was reported and average rain was 1/2 inch to 1 inch in most areas.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are planting corn, finishing up small grain fertilization, and scouting for insects and diseases in wheat and barley. Vegetable farmers are fertilizing strawberries, and getting fields ready for tomatoes, peppers, and other summer crops.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Severe thunderstorms came through Saturday evening with high winds and some hail reported in some areas. Scattered rainfall amounts throughout the county were 1/4 inch to 1 inch and no severe damage is known at this time.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Moderate spring week until the big storms on Saturday afternoon. Worst of the storms missed our county, but there were still impressive downpours of rain. There was 0.9 inches at my western Hanover home but it all came down in a few brief torrential rains with lots of runoff. Rainfall for the year is still below year to date averages. Grass is beginning to grow pretty well due to consistent temps and rainfall.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Apples are in bloom.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers made very good progress in getting the corn crop planted last week. In addition to planting the crop, applying burndown and pre-emergence herbicides and fertilizer were the main activities of the week. Pastures and hay fields are beginning to grow well, and small grains generally look very good.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Lots of corn was planted this week, a little is up. Barley is beginning to head and small grains look good. No sign of disease so far. Scattered showers during the week yielded anywhere from 1/10 to over an inch - very scattered. Plastic mulch is being laid. Greenhouse tomatoes and cantaloupes continue to grow and maybe set out in the next 10 days or so. Corn planting and land prep continues. Pastures and hay land are beginning to green up.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

What appeared to be an early spring a month ago is now seemingly more typical as recent wet, cooler weather has slowed soil warm-up. This week we had two nights with lows in the 30's and patchy frost. Green-up is in full force with adequate moisture, but grass growth is slow due to the cooler weather. Most beef producers are or have worked cattle for spring turn-out.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Things are turning green in spite of frosty mornings. There is frost on both apple and pear blooms.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Spring field work is being delayed by frequent rains (0.5 - 1" every 3 or 4 days). Producers are trying to harvest early small grains for forage, spray, and plant corn.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain was much welcomed and most of the county avoided serious damage from the storm on Saturday. I have talked to several producers and none have experience damage in their area of the county. There have been producers going to cattle sales and buying bulls and bred heifers. Tobacco fields are being readied for planting.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Wheat is doing well. Corn planting is progressing. Weather and storms this past weekend caused some damage to structures and has soaked the soil. Producers will have to evaluate the corn planted to assess if there is damage. Fields are very wet and this is restricting field access.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Spring planting is underway with corn about 40% complete. Cotton planters will start rolling this week.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Corn planting is in full gear even though we had scattered showers that moved through the area earlier in the week. The wheat crop looks good at this point and growers continue to apply burndown herbicides to cotton and soybean land. Lime and fertilizer applications continue. Growers are getting planters ready for peanut and cotton next week.



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